

REMARKS

New claims 29-32 have been added, and therefore claims 1, 3, 6-9, 13, 14, 16 and 19-32 will be pending upon entry of this amendment. Independent claims 1, 9, 14 and 24 have been amended herein. The amendments to the claims do not present new matter. Reconsideration of the patentability of the pending claims is respectfully requested in light of the following discussion.

§102 Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 6-9 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,035,389 to Wang ('*Wang*'); and claims 14, 16, 19 and 21-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,588,009 to Jones ('*Jones*'). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

It is initially noted that neither of the *Wang* and *Jones* references discloses an overhead transfer flange or any other apparatus that is adapted to couple to a substrate carrier body. In this regard it is noted that "a substrate carrier" is defined in the present application by virtue of incorporation of reference (for example, of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/650,310, entitled "System For Transporting Substrate Carriers" (Attorney Docket No. 6900), which defines a substrate carrier as follows:

The substrate carriers . . . may be any type of substrate carrier, including a sealed pod, an open cassette, or any apparatus with which one or more substrates may be held while the substrate(s) are transported.

As neither of *Wang* and *Jones* discloses any feature that couples to an apparatus with which one or more substrate

may be held while the substrate(s) are transported, it is submitted that these references fail to disclose all of the features of the independent claims 1, 9, 14 and 24 for this reason.

However, solely to expedite prosecution, independent claims 1, 9 and 24 have been amended to make explicit that which was implicit. Namely, these claims have been amended to recite an overhead transfer flange adapted to couple to a substrate carrier body and to couple to a moving overhead carrier support in a direction of motion of the overhead carrier support. Both of the *Wang* and *Jones* references disclose mounting elements that are adapted to couple a device (receptacle, mirror) to a wall, which is, of course, stationary. Accordingly, neither of the cited references discloses a flange adapted to couple to a moving overhead carrier support. Moreover, as Applicants' specification makes clear, the overhead carrier support is adapted to move in a horizontal direction (see e.g., page 17, lines 25-31 of the specification) and thus, the overhead transfer flange is adapted to couple to the overhead carrier support as it moves horizontally. The coupling features disclosed by both *Wang* (trapezoidal plate with ribs) and *Jones* (clip) couple in a vertical orientation and thus are not adapted to couple to a horizontally-moving object. Accordingly, the *Wang* and *Jones* references fail to disclose this feature of amended independent claims 1, 9 and 24 (and their respective dependent claims), which are therefore allowable over the *Wang* and *Jones* references for this additional reason as well.

In an analogous manner and again, solely to expedite prosecution, independent claim 14, as amended, recites an overhead carrier support adapted to couple to and suspend a substrate carrier while in motion via an overhead transfer flange. As discussed, the cited references do not disclose any apparatus adapted to suspend a substrate carrier, let alone a support adapted to couple to and suspend a substrate carrier while in motion. It is accordingly submitted that claim 14 are also allowable over the references relied upon.

Withdrawal of the §102 rejections of claims 1, 3, 6-9 and 13, 14, 16, 19 and 21-24 is therefore respectfully requested.

§103 Rejections

Claims 16 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Jones* in view of *Wang*; claims 25 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Jones* in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,008,087 to Stromberg ('*Stromberg*'); and claims 27 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Jones* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,283,692 to Perlov ('*Perlov*'). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

With regard to claims 16 and 20, as neither of the *Wang* nor *Jones* references, even when combined, discloses the features of independent claim 14 (as amended or as previously pending), it is submitted that the combination of *Wang* and *Jones* similarly fails to disclose the features of claims 16 and 20, which depend from claim

14. It is accordingly submitted that claims 16 and 20 are allowable over the references relied upon.

With regard to claims 25-28, it is submitted that the *Stromberg* and *Perlov* references do not cure the deficiencies of the primary *Jones* reference, and that these claims are therefore also allowable over the references relied upon.

New Claims

New independent claim 29 recites the feature that the blades of the third side and the fourth side of the overhead transfer flange engage with the supporting features of the moving overhead carrier support such that the overhead transfer flange is prevented from moving relative to the overhead support in a non-vertical direction. It is submitted that none of the references cited or relied upon disclose or even suggest this feature. New claims 30-32, which depend from new claim 29, each recite further features that are not disclosed or suggested by the references cited or relied upon. It is therefore submitted that claims 29-32 are allowable over these references.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants believe all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the same.

The Applicants have enclosed herewith a Request for an Extension of Time and authorization to charge the requisite fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1696. The Applicants do not

believe any additional Request for Extension of Time is required but if it is, please accept this paragraph as a request for such an Extension of Time and authorization to charge the requisite extension fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1696.

The Applicants do not believe any other fees are due regarding this amendment. If any other fees are required, however, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1696.

The Applicants encourage the Examiner to telephone Applicants' attorney should any issues remain.

Respectfully Submitted,



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